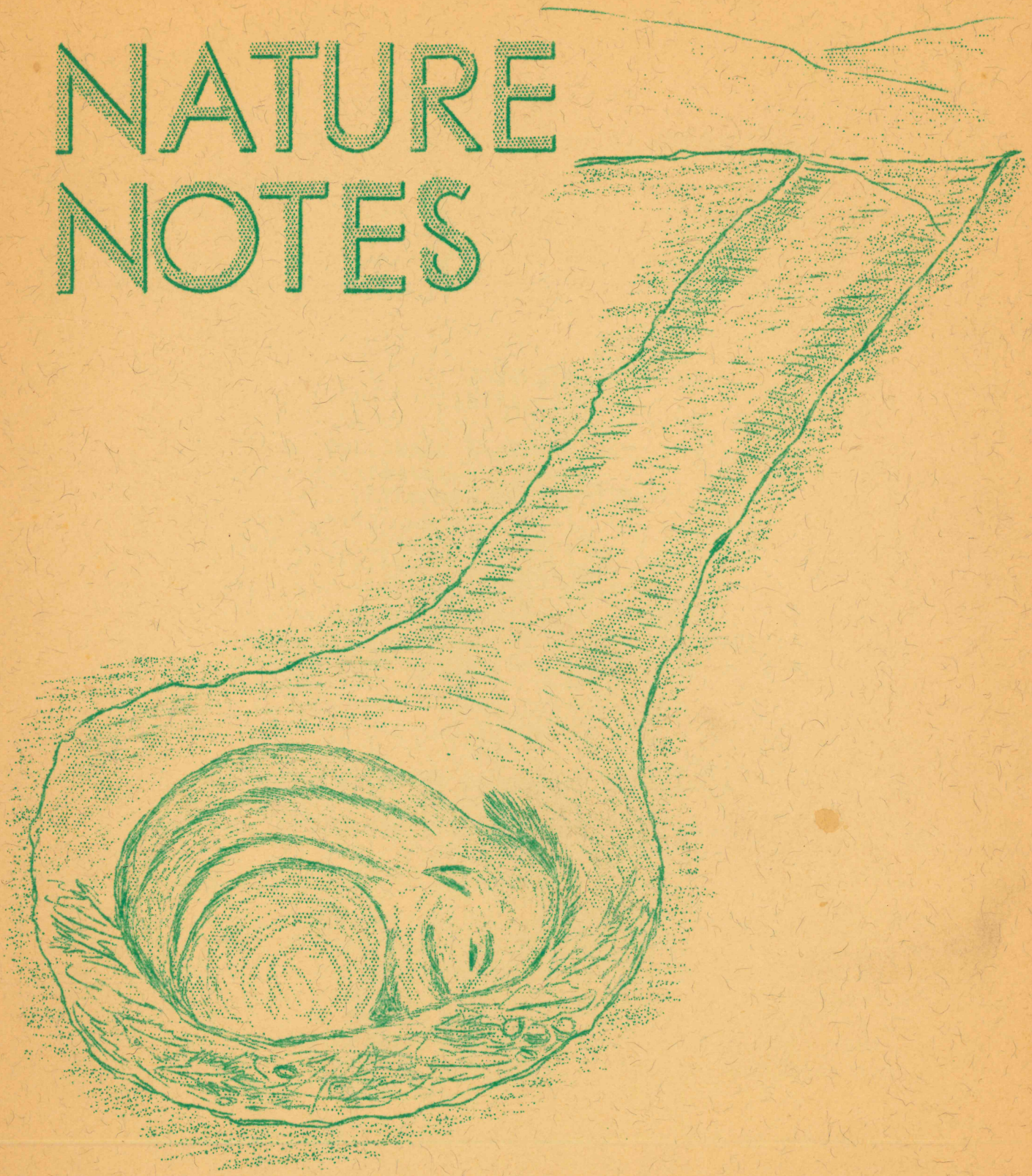
NATURE NOTES



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FEBRUARY 1965

"NATURE NOTES"

is published by

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Director & Editor: Roy A. Kennan

It is the purpose of this monthly publication, sent free to all members of The Thames Science Center, to report on activities at the Center, both in the month just past and in the months to come, to welcome new members to the organization, and to offer informational articles in the field of Natural Science.

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(This Nature Note was written by Richard Sylvia, a sophomore at St. Bernard's High School, New London.)

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Pequot-sepos Wildlife Sanctuary Trailside Lecture

March 17, 1965 - 8:00 P.M.

BIRDS IN THE LANDSCAPE by Roland C. Clement

Lecture and color slides by the author. Mr. Clement is the Staff Biologist of National Audubon Society, and as such has working knowledge of many conservation problems and projects both nationally and regionally. A member of the Editorial Board of Audubon Magazine, he is the author if innumerable articles on various natural history and conservation subjects. A noted ornithologist, he lectures extensively on these subjects and is one of the country's leading conservationists.

This lecture will be offered admission-free to members of The Thames Science Center. This is being done in consideration of the trial merger with the Pequot-sepos Wildlife Sanctuary.

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
February 1965

Hello There!

Well, it looks as if Nature Notes is starting to catch up, at least from the standpoint of publication dates...

Our Annual Meeting went off very smoothly...we now have a new slate of Officers and six new Board Members, as you will see on page 6. New Committee Chairmen are being picked, and the machinery will begin rolling soon to produce new, bigger and better things from T.S.C.!

The Saturday afternoon lectures worked very well...Mrs. Smith's demonstration lecture of Bird Banding techniques was enthusiastically received and we hope to conduct a field trip to her banding station in the near future...Mr. Swarts' lecture, incorporating color slides and many samples of rocks and minerals also went well, and he put in about an extra hour before and after the scheduled time, talking to those who clustered around the rock table...those rock hounds are an avid bunch!

One blot on an otherwise gratifying month was the theft of our petty cash box! In a place that has been accomodating up to a dozen teenage boys at a time, this was very unnerving, but it turned out that noe of the "regulars" were involved. Needless to say, petty cash is now under lock and key except when in use...

Our Indoor Group Study Program is now in print. This program is intended to let more people find out about what the Center has to offer, and if any of you know of a group in the area that might be interested, here's your chance to help...Show them your copy of Nature Notes and point out page 5!

Your Director and Robert Kunz, Curator of P.S.W.S., spent a very interesting day at New London High School last week. We each lectured for one half of five consecutive school periods, exposing approx. 250 students to our views on Natural Science and Conservation education via our respective fields of interest. The day was well received by most students, and we both gained new respect for public school teachers. Giving the same lecture five times in a row is very definitely WORK!

The NATURE NOTE this month, written by Richie Sylvia, is, I hope, an indication of a trend. One other boy has written a NATURE NOTE for me, to be published soon and others have expressed interest. It gives me great pleasure to have guest authors in Nature Notes!

Our program notes for the oncoming school vacation week are something that I am proud of...proud that the Center has so many friends that are willing to come forth and help when called upon. If you don't find anything that interests you in this set of programs, you can't say we didn't do our part! And if any of you in the 6th through 8th grades want to learn some Oceanography, you'd better head for the phone...remember, WE provide the texbook, and there will be THREE field trips...one is to New Haven.....

ACTIVITIES CALENDAR - FEBRUARY - MARCH 1965

21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20

LECTURES

Wednesday, February 24, 1965, 10:00A.M. at T.S.C.
Mr. Herbert Moran, Director of Recreation for New London, will bring to the Center some of the animals from his Zoo at the Bates Woods Nature Center. We have been promised a Badger, a Prairie Dog, and others. Here is a chance to get a close look at some animals not usually available to most of us...This program will be open to all age groups.

Thursday, February 25, 1965, 11:00 A.M. at T.S.C.
Mrs. Roy J. Taylor, a resident of Waterford and lecturer at Conn. College for Women, will give us new insight into what might seem a dull subject...Fruits and Nuts. Don't let that title stop you from coming...I promise you an hour of fun, with some pretty fascinating facts thrown into the bargain! This program is open to all, so if you bring your kids, Mom, stay and enjoy it!

Sunday, February 28, 1965, 3:00 P.M. at TSC
Mr. Andrew Aldrich of Uncasville, who has been anonymously doing our window-dressing at the Center in recent months, will be on hand to do another job he enjoys...Andy is an aquarist of the first water (if you'll excuse a pun!), and will demonstrate for us How To Set Up An Aquarium. If any of you have recently acquired, or are about to acquire, an aquarium, this program is a MUST for you! Again, the program's open to all ages...

Wednesday, March 17, 1965, 8:00P.M. at P.S.W.S.
The Trailside Lecture for March, by Roland Clement. Refer to Page 1 of this issue of Nature Notes for details.

MOVIE

Saturday, February 27, 1965, 2:00 P.M. at T.S.C.
Another of the excellent Bell Telephone Science Series films. This one, "The Unchained Goddess", tells us an entertaining and factual story about Meteora, weather goddess, and what man is doing to forecast and control the weather. Sound, color, 56 minutes showing time. We'll ask a small donation for this one...

CONTINUED NEXT PAGE

FIELD TRIPS

Tuesday, February 23, 1965, meet at T.S.C. at 1 P.M.
This field trip through the Conn. College Arboretum will be led by Miss Betsy Veitch, a Botany student at the college, and will be open to ten 2nd or 3rd graders. Betsy will conduct a walk to show the children that the trees and shrubs in the woods are still alive in the midst of winter, making preparations for the Spring that's ahead! We are asking that telephone reservations be made for this trip; please call 443-4295 between 1 & 6 P.M., except Monday.

Friday, February 26, 1965, meet at T.S.C. at 10 A.M.
Mrs. John Kashanski, our 1964 President at T.S.C., popular class and workshop leader, will be the expert on this trip, open to ten 4th graders. This field trip through the Conn. College Arboretum will help to teach Winter Bud & Twig Identification...if you stay home you'll miss a chance for fun! Please reserve a place by phone.

Friday, February 26, 1965, meet at T.S.C. at 2:30 P.M.
Here's another trip to the Arboretum! This one will be under the tutelage of Miss Elizabeth Deane, an upperclass student at Conn. College, and will be open to ten 5th & 6th graders. 'Liz is a whiz at Habitats as seen in the Arboretum, and although the title may not seem too thrilling, you'll have to blame it on your Director. The field trip comes with an unwritten guarantee...Hurry and reserve your place! Call 443-4295.

PLEASE NOTE! If you, or your children, are planning to attend a field trip, please dress warmly, and in clothes that will not suffer from a walk in the woods. Boots are a good idea, even if the ground is bare and dry. The field trips will take approximately 1 1/2 hours and will return to the Center.

COURSE

Saturday, March 6, 1965, 10:00 A.M. to 11:30 A.M.
This will be the first session of an eight-week course of study entitled "Beginning Oceanography" that Lee Greiner, assistant to the former Director of T.S.C., will conduct for 6th, 7th, and 8th graders. Registration will be open for twelve students, with a fee of $6.00 for non-members and $3.00 for members. This fee will include text books, class materials, and will help defray the cost of three field trips. Please call the Center for more information and to register.

INDOOR GROUP STUDY PROGRAM

The purpose of the TSC Indoor Group Study Program is to make available the facilities of the Science Center to a variety of organizations interested in the general field of nature studies. A presentation suitable to the purpose of visiting groups will be given by the Director. In general the presentation will be made in an informal manner and will introduce the members of the group to representative exhibits at the Center.

The time required for the visit will be determined, of course, by the age of the group. However, an average time of approximately one hour will be devoted to a visit. The fee for a presentation will be twenty-five cents per person with a minimum fee of $2.50. Since large groups are apt to be unwieldy, the visit will be limited to thirty persons. At least one adult per fifteen visitors will be required to accompany a group.

In addition to visits of the sort described, interested groups may visit the Center without the benefit of the Director's presentation. No fee will be charged for such a visit.

Organizations wishing to avail themselves of these services can make arrangements for any day, Tuesday through Sunday, 10 A.M. to 6 P.M. Reservations for a visit should be made by notifying the Director at least two weeks in advance. Please do this whether or not you wish the Director's presentation.

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NATURE NOTE - FEBRUARY 1965

HIBERNATION , WINTER SLEEP AND ESTIVATION

by
Richard Sylvia , 10th Grade , St. Bernard's High School,
New London , Connecticut

Many common animals retire into a period of dormancy at different times in the year. During this time the animals' body functions slow down considerably and their body temperature drops due to the slowing down of oxidation of food. This quiescent period may take place in the Summer as in the turtle, Gopher Tortoise, frog and many fish or in the Winter, which is characteristic of the bear, chipmunk, frog and woodchuck.

The ground squirrel, chipmunk, and many reptiles and amphibians undergo hibernation during cold weather. With the coming of Fall and the seasonal lowering of the air temperature, the body temperature of many animals drops to the point where they can no longer be very active. True hibernation may last up to six months without the animal awakening. During this sleep the animal needs little food because its rate of metabolism slows down greatly. The food which the animal uses is stored as body fat and in its liver. The heart action slows down to the point that blood hardly circulates in the vessels. Respiration decreases and the animal loses conciousness. Nervous activity almost ceases and the animal lies in a stupor. The body temperature of the animal drops according to the intensity of the animal's unconciousness. The body temperature of the woodchuck, for instance, drops slowly until it is between 40 and 57 degrees Farenheit. With the coming of the warm days in Spring body activity speeds up and the animal gradually resumes active life.

Some animals, however, such as the Black Bear, do not experience true hibernation. The body temperature of the bear is maintained and he may even wake up and walk around on a mild day. This form of hibernation is called Winter Sleep.

Hibernation may also take place during hot weather, as seen in the frog, box turtle and Gopher Tortoise. These animals lack a device for cooling thier body and must escape from extreme heat. This dormant period during the warm weather is sometimes referred to as "Summer Hibernation". The biological term for this, however, is Estivation. A frog may estivate in the cool mud at the bottom of a pond. In many cases, smaller ponds dry up during midsummer and the frog survives only by burying itself in the mud and estivating. The box turtle often releives itself of the heat by burying itself in a pile of leaves. Many fish leave shallow water and lie in deep regions where the water is cool. The period of estivation may vary from several days to several weeks. With the coming of cooler weather these animals come out of estivation and resume normal activity.

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